

Abstract

To provide: a very thin elliptically polarizing plate having broadband and wide viewing angle; a simple method of producing the same; and an image display apparatus employing the elliptically polarizing plate. The elliptically polarizing plate of the present invention includes a polarizer, a protective layer formed on one side of the polarizer, a first birefringent layer serving as a $\lambda/2$ plate, and a second birefringent layer serving as a $\lambda/4$ plate. In the elliptically polarizing plate, the first birefringent layer and the second birefringent layer are each formed by using a liquid crystal material. Preferably, the first birefringent layer has a thickness of 0.5 to 5 μm and the second birefringent layer has a thickness of 0.3 to 3 μm .